

# Mosquito Spraying and Bioterrorism

Fred Yanoski, Public Health  
Preparedness Coordinator  
Midland County Health Department

# Could mosquito spraying equipment be used for biological/chemical terrorism?

- Agents do exist that can be dispersed in an aerosol form
- Spraying equipment exists (crop dusters, truck-mounted foggers, backpack sprayers)
- Some research supports the potential to infect humans
- Intelligence suggests that others have tested

# Why mosquito spraying equipment may potentially not be used successfully to disperse biological/chemical agents

- Improved security and awareness
- Technology concerns
- Effectiveness of agent
- National security issues

# Midland County Security Measures

- Since 9-11, security has been increased
  - Product is always locked when vehicle is unattended
  - Contactor for aerosol spraying has security measures
  - Planes are disabled at night, 24/7, etc.
  - Additional Law enforcement patrols

# Midland County, cont.

- Materials delivered checked for tampering
- NO security breaches reported!
- Urge community vigilance













# What to do to prepare for a chemical or biological attack

- Assemble a disaster supply kit
- Battery powered radio
- Non-perishable food and water supply
- Duct tape and plastic sheeting
- First aid kit
- Sanitary supplies

# What to do during a chemical or biological attack

- Listen for instructions
  - remain inside or evacuate?
- If you are in your home...
  - Seal an internal room.
- If you are caught in an unprotected area...
  - Get upwind and find shelter

# What to do after an attack

- Chemical attack
  - Decon
  - Proceed to medical facility
- Biological Attack
  - Watch for symptoms
  - Listen for direction